Preventive measures taken to keep back Plague from being imported from Alleppey to Cochin State.

139. **Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the preventive measure they have taken to keep back the plague epidemic from being imported from Alleppey to Cochin State?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—All necessary preventive measures against the importation of the disease into the State are being adopted. Observation stations have been put up at Kumbalam and Edacochi toll-gate where there is a heavy inflow of passenger and goods traffic. The merchandise and other goods from infected areas are being properly disinfected and all passengers from these localities are also being examined.

Special staff were appointed in the Ernakulam and Mattancheri Municipalities also to carry on the preventive works within the Municipalities.

Time followed by Government.

140. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state when any time is fixed for doing anything by the Government for example, Election of Panchayats, is it the local time or the standard time to be followed?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—There is no hard and fast rule in the matter. In Panchayat elections, it is the local time that is generally followed as being more convenient in rural parts.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it generally written in the notice, that such and such time is followed?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—It is not written in the notice, but the understanding is, local time.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the difference between the local time and the standard time?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—It may be about half an hour to 45 minutes.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon.—Is there any circular on the matter?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—There is no circular, but there is a distinct understanding.

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